

LPH

2 TIMES-HERALD, SATURDAY, FEB. 3, 1951

# McGrath Relaxes Alien Ban After Briefing in House

## Reverses Self When Committee Tells Him Law Applies Only to Willing Subversives

By WILLARD EDWARDS

Thousands of aliens, including a large number of GI war brides, barred from entry into the United States, will be admitted under legislation agreed upon yesterday by Attorney General McGrath and congressional leaders.

The agreement marked an abrupt surrender by McGrath from a legal position previously taken which was attacked in Congress as deliberate misinterpretation of the anti-Communist act passed by Congress last September over President Truman's veto. The attorney general was accused of distorting the law in an attempt to ridicule and sabotage its provisions, thus helping in a campaign to repeal it.

### Intent Distorted

Under McGrath's rulings, entry was barred to residents of Germany, Italy and Spain who, as children, belonged to youth organizations under totalitarian control in those countries. Admission was also refused to adults who were forced to join the Nazi, Fascist or Falangist movements in order to obtain employment, food ration cards or to avoid imprisonment or death.

Instead of excluding Communists and subversive aliens intent upon espionage, the Justice department, according to framers of the law, concentrated upon barring the entry of involuntary members of totalitarian government groups. The resulting hardships, publicized in a number of war bride cases, helped leftist organizations to complain about the "inequities" of the new act.

In an exchange of letters between Chairman McCarran of Nevada of the Senate judiciary committee, and McGrath, made public by the former yesterday, the attorney general completely yielded his former stand. He assented to an amendment to the internal security act of 1950 which directed him:

1. Not to exclude aliens whose membership in totalitarian organizations was involuntary or undertaken for purposes of obtaining employment, food rations or other essentials of living.

2. Not to exclude aliens whose membership or affiliation in such

### Commies Not Affected

Members of foreign Communist organizations, however, whether the membership was involuntary or during childhood, will continue to be excluded.

Rep. Walter (D) of Pennsylvania, ranking member of the House judiciary committee, who had joined in the criticism of McGrath, indorsed the agreement, swift passage of the legislation was assured.

The agreement resulted from a campaign led by a bipartisan group composed of McCarran, Walter, Sens. Eastland (D) of Mississippi; O'Connor (D) of Maryland; Nixon (R) of California; Wiley (R) of Wisconsin; Ferguson (R) of Michigan, and Reps. Wood (D) of Georgia; Harrison (D) of Virginia; McSweeney (D) of Ohio, Velde (R) of Illinois, and Kearney (R) of New York.

### Hold Meaning Clear

In stinging letters to the Justice department and floor speeches, this group had denounced McGrath's interpretation of the law as clearly in violation of court precedents.

In the opinion of these legislators, the act, as drafted, clearly excluded subversive aliens without barring those who, as Rep. Walter phrased it, "as children had to wear fancy shirts of various colors or who as adults, under the threat of imprisonment, starvation, or of violent death, reluctantly joined the auxiliaries of the Nazi or Fascist parties."

The amendment agreed upon would not have been necessary under a fair-minded interpretation of the act, several congressmen said, but was necessary to end government attempts to undermine the law.